

self, or if he did not care to take the responsibility he could refer it to the king for his approval or disapproval. In either event the king had the power to approve or revoke the governor's action. The Assembly elected its own officers, but its choice was subject to the approval of the governor. The speaker of the Assembly was the highest officer over which the people, or their representatives had any control, and consequently the leader of the popular party was usually elected to it. Thus it happened that the governor, as the representative of the Crown and the royal party in the colony, and the speaker, as the representative of the Assembly and the popular party, were frequently the leaders of hostile factions; and much of the politics of colonial times turns on this relationship. It was as speaker of the Assembly that John Harvey, from 1765 to 1775, became the leader of the revolutionary party and the organizer of the Revolution.

The Revolution was due to the fact that the colonists and the British government held conflicting theories as to the relation existing between the colonies and the British Parliament. The colonial government of North Carolina was based upon charters issued by the Crown to the Lords Proprietors. In every one of these charters, in the charter granted to Sir Walter Raleigh by Queen Elizabeth in 1584,³ in that granted by Charles I. to Sir Robert Heath in 1629,⁴ and in those granted by Charles II to the Lords Proprietors in 1663 and in 1665,⁵ it was distinctly set forth that the people

3. Printed in Thorpe: American Charters, Constitutions and Organic Laws, I., 53-57.

4. Printed in Col. Rec., I., 5-13.

5. Printed in Col. Rec., I., 20-33, 102-114.